

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SNM-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-06 OMB-01 HEW-04 DODE-00 L-03 AGR-05 AGRE-00 /090 W

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P R 141535Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4884

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7051

EUR/SE FOR AMBASSADOR MACOMBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN SEIZURE OF ALLEGED TURKISH OPIUM

REF: STATE 221539

1. IN MOST RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN DEA OFFICERS AND TOP TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE (TNP) OFFICIALS, DEA REITERATED U.S. CONCERN IN THIS CASE. THEY PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED THAT CASE IS SUBJECT OF HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN WASHINGTON. TNP OFFICIALS STATED THAT SINCE RECEIVING INITIAL NOTIFICATION JULY 21 OF THE EGYPTIAN SEIZURE, TNP HAS TAKEN FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. CABLED EGYPTIAN INTERPOL FOR COMPLETE DETAILS OF THE SEIZURE. RESPONSE NOT YET RECEIVED.

B. ASKED TURKISH EMBASSY, CAIRO, TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOE AUTHORITIES AND COLLECT ALL AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE ON THE SUBJECT.

C. CABLED AND TELEPHONED TNP IN ISKENDERUN, POINT OF DEPARTURE OF THE SHIP USED FOR THE ATTEMPTED OPIUM DELIVERY AS WELL AS BASE
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OF OPERATIONS FOR ALL SUSPECTS INVOLVED, INSTRUCTING AUTHORITIES

TO INVESTIGATE IMMEDIATELY.

D. CONDUCTED BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION IN ANKARA RELATIVE TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE CASE.

2. PENDING RESULTS OF EFFORT TO IDENTIFY ORIGIN OF SIZED OPIUM, WE BELIEVE ASSUMPTION SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE MADE THAT THIS OPIUM NECESSARILY CAME FROM THIS YEAR'S CROP IN LICENSED POPPY-GROWING REGION. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED INFO THAT POPPY INCISION AND OPIUM PRODUCTION HAS OCCURRED IN THE LICENSED POPPY-GROWING REGION SINCE RESUMPTION OF GROWING IN 1974. FURTHER, WE BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT SUCH ACTIVITY ON SUFFICIENT SCALE TO PRODUCE THE 270 KILOGRAMS OF SEIZED OPIUM COULD GO UNDETECTED BY TURKISH CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE POPPY REGION. FRANCIS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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